

COUNT KATSU'S REMINISCENCES
OF FOREIGNERS.

The *Hogo News* translates the following from a Japanese native paper, the *Osaka Mainichi Shinbun*:

Count Katsu gave an interesting sketch of some of his early recollections of foreigners to his friend the other day. The Count commenced by remarking how little idea the spectator of Japan today could have of the worry and the trouble and the humiliations which first attended the opening of the country to foreign intercourse. Continuing, he said, "I will give you one or two instances. The Government of the Shogun wishing to organize a Navy on foreign lines, a board of officers was formed to discuss the question of a uniform. Personally, I thought the question of what uniform should be worn could wait until those who were to 'don' it knew a little about their profession. At that time the majority of Japanese were utterly ignorant of the practice of foreign naval, and I feared we should be the laughing-stock of the 'red whiskers' (foreigners). But I had officers over many, 'don' what me, to against my better judgment I was compelled to see a British Admiral named Keppel, who was then staying in Japan, to ask him as to what uniform we should wear. I took with me to the interview a Naval Superintendent and other officers. Admiral Keppel, I should tell you, is a man of much account among Englishmen, and his countenance and manner of talking show in this 'One of his first' that no one could answer him. He was, however, a ship officer, and I asked him, 'How many admirals are there in your service?' I have heard eight. Is that correct?' He answered 'Yes' and I followed it up with 'They are all men of long experience, I think, and yet how many among them could really command a ship?' The Admiral replied, 'Two, myself and another officer.' This conversation was not easy work for me; it was hard to treat a man with any politeness who had bullied us, made us to appear like fools, and who had threatened us."

"I will give you another instance where I suffered much bitterness of mind. The Government of the Shogun, wishing to erect lighthouses at Shimoda, in Izu, and Kannon-saki, in Sagami, sent a deputation of officers to the commanders of the British, American, and French men-of-war then in Yokohama, to ask them to come and consult with us on the matter. But the foreign commanders would not come. They were sufficiently hostile. Another deputation was sent, but it was the same want of success. Then I was chosen for the affair, the Government committing the business to me. I accepted the duty, and my first step was to organize an entertainment on board our vessel, to which I invited the foreign commanders. They came and were astonished at the entertainment I had prepared for them. After that I went on board their vessels, and they came on board my ship again to return their thanks for my hospitality. We got friendly, and I soon had the three commanders together as wanted on board, and they passed the night on board, and here arose a circumstance which caused me much bitterness and shame. It was about a bedstead. The commander of the British man-of-war was a man who had distinguished himself at the siege of Sebastopol. The commander of the American man-of-war was a man over sixty years of age, and so was the French commander. We had only two No. 1 rooms on board, the remainder being allotted for the use of the non-commissioned officers. There was the six-two bedsteads and two bedsteads for three men. One of the thought must sleep in a non-commissioned officer's room. But which? The Frenchman and American were old men and could demand the respect due to age, but the British commander, though a young man, was still the representative of England. The fact was I did not wish to be guilty of any partiality, else I stood to lose their services in the matter in hand. I therefore decided I would make a clean breast of the affair, and tell them the predicament I was in. I then said to them, 'You are all my guests. I have only two rooms. Sleep in them as you can. I will sleep in a non-commissioned officer's room. We remained friends, arranged the matter of the lighthouses, hearing of the incident, conferred with me on everything. The instances I have related are only two of many occasions when I felt much shame and bitterness, the extent and depth of which words would fail to express."

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF A
CHINESE GIRL.

It is well-known that Chinese law recognizes seven grounds for the divorce of a wife, as follows: Childlessness; Wanton conduct; Neglect of husband's parents; Loquacity (*to yin*); Thievery; Jealousy; Malignant disease. The requisites for a Chinese wife are by no means sure to be exciting. A man in the writer's employ, who was thinking of giving up his single life, on being questioned, as to what sort of a wife he preferred, emphatically replied "It is enough if she is neither bald nor idiotic." In a country where the avowed end of marriage is to raise a posterity to burn incense at the ancestral graves, it is not strange that 'Childlessness' should rank first among the grounds for divorce. It would be an error, however, to infer that either this, or any other of the above mentioned, are the ordinary occasions of divorce, because they are designated in the Imperial code of laws. It is always difficult to arrive at just conclusions in regard to facts of a high degree of complexity, especially in regard to the Chinese. But so far as we can perceive, the truth appears to be that divorce in China is by no means so common as might be expected by one reasoning from the law just quoted. Probably the most common cause is adultery, for the reason that this is the crime most fatal to the existence of the family. But it must be distinctly understood that in every case of divorce, there is a factor to be taken into account, which the law does not even consider. This is the family of the woman, and as we have seen, it is a factor of great importance, and by no means to be disregarded. It is very certain that the family of the woman will resist any divorce which they consider to be unjust or disgraceful, not merely on account of the loss of 'face,' but for another reason even more powerful. In China a woman cannot return to her parent's home after an unhappy marriage, as is so often done in western lands, because there is no provision for her support. The land is set apart for the maintenance of the parents, and after that has been provided for the remainder is divided among the brothers. No lot or portion falls to any sister, it is this which makes it imperative that every woman should be married, that she may have some visible means of support. After her parents are dead, her brothers, or more certainly her brothers' wives, would drive her from the premises, as an alien who had no business to depend upon their family, when she 'belongs' to another. Under this state of things, it is not very likely that a husband would be allowed to divorce his wife, except

for a valid cause, unless there should be some opportunity for her to 'take a step,' that is to marry elsewhere. Next to adultery, the most common cause of Chinese divorce is thought to be what western laws euphemistically term incompatibility, by which is meant, in this case, constant domestic brawls and make life, even to a Chinese, not worth living. It is needless to remark that when things have reached this pitch, they must be very bad indeed. Every one of the above cited causes for divorce evidently afford room for the loosest construction of the facts, and if the law were left to its own execution, with no restraint from the wife's family, the grossest injustice might be constantly committed. As it is, whatever settlement is arrived at in any particular case, must be the result of a compromise, in which the friends of the weaker party take care to see that their rights are considered. We have repeatedly referred to the imperative necessity that every Chinese youth should be married. To a foreigner there is a mixture of the ludicrous and the pathetic, in the attitude of the average parent in regard to a marriage of a son who has nearly reached the age of twenty, and is still single. It is a Chinese aphorism of ancient times, that when sons and daughters are once married, "the great business of life has been despatched." Chinese parents look upon the marriage of their sons, just as western parents look upon the matter of taking young boys out of their early dress and putting them into trousers. The serious part of life cannot be begun until this is done, and to delay it is ridiculous and irrational.

Chinese parents are never willing to run the risk of having the marriage of any of their children, especially the sons, postponed until after the death of their parents. They feel uncertain whether the children already married will be willing to make the proper provision for the event, or indeed that they will let it take place at all. Affairs of this sort involve the partition of the land, with a portion to each married son, and it is not in human nature to wish to multiply the share in a property which is too often at the best wholly inadequate. For this cause, every prudent parent wishes to see this "main business of life," put through while he is able to superintend the details.

The inexorable necessity for the marriage of sons is not suspended by the fact that the child is wholly unsuited for a real marriage, or indeed incapable of it. Cases constantly occur, in which a boy who is a hopeless and helpless cripple, is married to a girl, whose family only assent to the arrangement, because of the advantageous terms which are offered. Children who are subject to epileptic or other forms of fits, those who are more or less insane, and even those who are wholly idiotic, all may have, and do have, wives; provided only that the families of the boys are in good circumstances. The inevitable result of this violation of the laws of nature, is an infinity of suffering for the girls whose lives are thus wrecked, and the evolution of a great wealth of scandal. There is another feature of Chinese married life, to which little attention seems to have been paid by foreigners, but which is well worth investigation. It is the kidnapping of legally married wives. The method by which this may be accomplished, and the difficulty of tracking those who do it, may be illustrated by the following case, with the principals in which the father and the father-in-law of the bride, the writer is acquainted, having been present at the wedding in December 1881. The bride herself, was, as often, a mere child. On her frequent visits to her native village which local custom allows, the bride did not spend much of her time at her own home, where she was probably not made very welcome by her step-mother, but went instead to her grandmother's, who was old, half blind, and ill supplied with bedding. In a neighbouring yard lived a cousin of the girl, who was a 'salt inspector,' that is one whose duty it is to seize contraband in smuggled salt. His wife was herself a dealer in smuggled salt, and of course with the connivance of her husband-in-law. This couple were said to have been married without the intervention of go-betweens, and hence the most flagitious conduct was to be expected from them. The girl got into the habit, whenever she visited her village, of going to the house of this cousin, and not to that of her father. The cousin was absent much of the time, on his business in connection with the suppression (or the sale) of smuggled salt. Upon one occasion, after a ten day's visit to her native village she returned to the home of her husband (that is, her mere child), where she staid five days, and then went again to her own village. A younger sister-in-law, sixteen years of age, went with her two-thirds of the way, at which point the bride sent her escort back and proceeded alone. Some days after this, the own sister of the bride met the father-in-law at a fair, and inquired why the bride did not return to her own village as agreed. Her absence from both homes was thus for the first time discovered. The steps taken to follow her are an excellent illustration of certain phases of Chinese life. It is almost impossible in China for any one to do anything so secretly that some other persons do not know of it, and in an affair so serious as the disappearance and outright of a young bride, the chances of successful concealment would seem to be very slight.

The father-in-law of the girl went to the village where she had lived, and learned that upon the occasion of her home visits the child had been allowed to go where she pleased, and that once after coming in from her cousin's, she had been heard to remark that she herself was worth as much as five ounces of silver. It was also reported that the wife of the cousin had been observed waiting for the missing girl, on the night she was last seen at the time when she was dismissed by the sister-in-law who had accompanied her. This was all the clue that could be got. The father-in-law now presented a petition to the district magistrate, setting the facts and accusing the girl's father, and others. This was followed by counter accusations from the father, the cousin, and his mother-in-law. The official reply to the complaint was an order to the local constable to find the girl. The constable was a wholly incompetent person, and could not have found her if he had tried, and a second petition to the magistrate was followed by the same reply. This significant fact that there was no hope from that official, who took no interest in the matter. — *N. C. Daily News.*

(To be continued.)

PEKING.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

3rd July, 1890.
The parched China has been at last blessed with life-giving showers, and there seems every likelihood of the rain continuing for a time, which is the occasion of great rejoicing amongst the Chinese. Since 1876 we have not had such a long spell of drought.
A firm at your end of the line has secured the contract of supplying, through H. E. Li Hung-chang, 40,000 barrels of cement for use on the Yellow-River Works. The cement is to be delivered by the end of the year, the price being 12 1/2 per barrel.
No answer has so far been given to the report by the Customs Tsoai to the Viceroy advocating the working of the Tee-chow Coal and Iron Mines. The matter is still pending, and it is stated that the Viceroy is of opinion that the applicants are not sufficiently qualified to carry out such a large undertaking. — *Shanghai Mercury.*

HONGKONG
TRADING CO., LTD.
(LATE THE HALL & HOLTZ CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY, LIMITED.)

HAVE ON HAND A COMPLETE STOCK OF GLASSWARE,

consisting of—
Sherry Glasses, Port Glasses, Champagne Glasses, Ruby Hock Glasses, Jelly Glasses, Custard Glasses, Liqueur Glasses, Soda Water Tumblers, Half-Pint Tumblers, Small Tumblers, Champagne Tumblers, Finger Bowls, Ice Plates, Decanters, Claret Decanters, Carafes and Ups.

IN SEVERAL DESIGNS AND PATTERNS.

Also

A CHOICE STOCK OF—
DINNER SERVICES, TEA SERVICES, TOILET SETS, EPERGNES, SPECIMEN GLASSES, and FANCY GLASS TABLE ORNAMENTS, etc., etc.

HONGKONG TRADING CO., LTD.

(Late THE HALL & HOLTZ C. Co., Ltd.)

Hongkong, 17th July, 1890.

KUHN & CO.,

ESTABLISHED 1869.

JAPANESE AND CHINESE



FINE ART DEPOT.

12 GOLD MEDALS.

WE beg to announce that our New and Magnificent Show Rooms, 21 & 23, Queen's Road, and in the Hongkong Hotel (Peddar's Street Entrance) will be OPENED ON

MONDAY NEXT,

the 21st instant.

WITH AN UNLIMITED STOCK OF
"JAPANESE AND CHINESE FINE ART GOODS,"
Novelties and Manufactures of all descriptions suitable for Wholesale, Export and Local Retail.

KUHN & Co. respectfully thank the Residents of Hongkong and Coast Ports for the liberal patronage hitherto accorded them, and trust by earnest endeavours to merit a continuance of their support.

It being imperative that JAPANESE AND CHINESE WORKS OF ART should be packed with the utmost care we have engaged an experienced Japanese packer for this purpose only. Orders sent to our establishments in Hongkong or Yokohama will receive prompt and careful attention.

KUHN & CO.,

Importers and Exporters of all kinds of Japanese and Chinese Works of Art and Manufacture, Hongkong and Yokohama.

Hongkong, 15th July, 1890.

To-day's
Advertisements.

"SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS.

FOR NAGASAKI, KORE AND YOKOHAMA,
VIA INLAND SEA.
THE Steamship

"BRECONS HIRE"
Captain Jackson, will be despatched as above
on SUNDAY, the 20th inst., DAVLIGHT.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 18th July, 1890. [1037]

"SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
"STEAMSHIP "BRECONS HIRE."
FROM HAMBURG, ANTWERP, LONDON,
PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed that all Goods, are being landed at their risk, into the Godowns of the Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Kowloon, whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.
Optional cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before Noon, TO-MORROW, the 18th inst.
No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining after the 24th inst., will be subject to rent.
All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the 24th instant, or they will not be recognised.
No Fire Insurance has been effected.
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong 17th July, 1890. [1037]

Intimations.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO
STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.
NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE Forty-eighth Ordinary Half-yearly MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS of the Company, No. 18, Bank Buildings, Queen's Road Central, on FRIDAY, the 18th August, at 12 o'clock at Noon, for the purpose of receiving a Report of the Directors together with a Statement of Account, declaring a Dividend, and electing Directors and Auditors.
THE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 19th July to 1st August, inclusive.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
T. ARNOLD,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 14th July, 1890. [1045]

THE SHAMEN HOTEL
BRITISH CONCESSION, CANTON.

THIS FIRST CLASS HOTEL, admirably situated within a few minutes walk of the 'River Steamer Wharves,' is now open to receive Visitors.
The Bed-rooms are cool, airy and comfortably furnished, and the spacious Dining Room, Sitting Room, and accommodation generally, will be found equal to the best Hotels in the Far East. The Table D'Hôte is supplied with every luxury in season, and the cuisine is in excellent hands.
Wines, Spirits, Malt Liquors, etc., of the best quality only.
C. BOND,
Manager.
Hongkong, 14th July, 1890. [1047]

A. H. F. O. K.
SHIPS COMPRADORE & STEVEDORE,
No. 80, PRAYA CENTRAL,
WING WOO STREET.
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Hongkong, 14th July, 1890. [1045]

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Hongkong, 15th July, 1890. [1049]

Intimations.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF
HONGKONG.

In the Matter of the Estate of MARIE ELISE
FOURNIER, Deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Honourable the Acting Chief Justice having in virtue of Section 3 of Ordinance 9 of 1870 made an Order limiting to the 31st October next, the time for sending in CLAIMS against the said Estate. All Creditors are hereby required to send in their Claims to the Undersigned before the said date.
Dated the 16th day of July, 1890.
BRUCE SHEPHERD,
Acting Registrar.
[1055]

THE SONGEI KOYAH PLANTING CO., LD.

NOTICE is hereby given that unless the 2nd CALL of \$5 per share due 7th June, 1890, on shares of the above Company Nos. 726/750, 3476/3495, 2586/2655, 2671/2675, 3441/3445, 4106/4150, 4201/4250, 4276/4285, 4301/4310 is paid to the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation on or before the 31st inst. the said shares will be forfeited in accordance with the power given in the articles of association.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 15th July, 1890. [1054]

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT
AND AGENCY CO., LIMITED.

AN INTERIM DIVIDEND at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the six months ending 30th June, 1890, will be payable on the 23rd inst., on which date Dividend Warrants may be obtained on application at the Company's Office, No. 5, Queen's Road Central.
THE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 20th to the 22nd July, both days inclusive.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
R. B. ALLEN,
Acting Secretary.
Hongkong, 15th July, 1890. [1053]

NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION,
LIMITED.

A DIVIDEND for the half year ending 31st March has been declared at the rate of 6 1/2 per cent. Annually, Coupons (11) attached to Gold Share Warrants may be cashed and Dividends on Silver Share Warrants issued locally will be paid on and after 16th July, at the Hongkong Branch Office.
GEO. W. F. PLAYFAIR,
Manager.
Hongkong, 12th July, 1890. [1059]

W. S. MARTEN,
ARTISTIC DECORATOR,
AND
HOUSE AND ESTATE AGENT,
2, DUDDELL STREET,
HONGKONG.
Hongkong, 6th April, 1890. [1574]

TO LET UNFURNISHED,
From August 1st.

TWO GOOD ROOMS, with Bath Room, in the Caine Road. Rent moderate.
Splendid View of the Harbour.
Apply to
W. S. MARTEN,
2, Duddell Street.
Hongkong, 1st July, 1890. [1059]

Insurances.

£1,000 STG. Payable at Age 55, or at death if previous may be secured by a payment at the rate of—
£ 7 7 6 { per quarter if commenced at age
£ 8 14 2 { (n. b.)25
£ 10 11 230
£ 13 4 1035
£ 17 15 840
£ 27 12 645

AFTER the Policy has been three years in force—the Policy-holder will be entitled to receive on application a Free Paid-up Policy for proportionate amount of the Sum Assured, as explained in Prospectus, should he wish to discontinue payment of premiums.
ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,
Agents, Hongkong
STANDARD LIFE OFFICE.
[102-2]

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, OF 1877
IN HAMBURG.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.
REUTER, BROCKELMANN & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 1st July, 1890. [1056]

GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE
ASSURANCE COMPANY IN
LONDON.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE and LIFE at Current Rates.
REUTER, BROCKELMANN & Co.,
Agents, Hongkong, 1st July, 1890. [1057]

NOTICE
THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY
LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000.
The above Company is prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS, etc., Policies granted to all Parts of the world payable at any of its Agencies.
WOO LIN YUEN,
Secretary.
HEAD OFFICE,
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST,
Hongkong, 1st February, 1890. [1059]

GENERAL NOTICE.
THE ON-TAI INSURANCE COMPANY,
(LIMITED).

CAPITAL TAELS 600,000. \$833,333.33.
RESERVE FUND\$318,000.00
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
LEE SING, Esq. LO YUEN MOON, Esq.
MANAGER—HO AMEI,
Hongkong, 17th December, 1889. [1059]

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, etc., taken at CURRENT RATES to all parts of the world.
HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST,
Hongkong, 17th December, 1889. [1059]

Auctions.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

ELEGANT HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
PAINTINGS, &c., &c.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to Sell by Public Auction, on
THURSDAY,
the 24th July, 1890, commencing at 2.30 p.m. sharp, at the residence of A. S. COHEN, Esq., No. 8, Bellios Terrace.

THE WHOLE OF HIS
ELEGANT HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c.
mostly Mariburk-made and comprising—

DRAWING ROOM SUITE UPHOLSTERED in Terra Cotta Ribbed Silk and EMBOSSED VELVET, Large MANTLE MIRROR Tenk and Velvet Frame, Marble-top CONSOLES, English and Canton Marble-top Blackwood TABLES, Polished Steel and Brass FENDER and IRONS with GLAZED TILES, CHEFFONIER, MIRROR BRACKETS, fine LITHOGRAPHS, PAINTINGS, FANCY TASSELS, MARBLE GROUPS, very fine "LOISONNE" and other VASES and ORNAMENTS, French Gilt Mantel CLOCK, LACE CURTAINS, CENTRE CARPET and RUGS, &c.

Large EXTENSION DINING TABLE, MOROCCO COVERED DINING ROOM SUITE, very fine and large Marble-top SIDEBOARD, with glass back, Marble-top BUFFET, Handsome Overmantel Marble CLOCK, 14 days, DINNER and DESSERT SETS, ELECTRO PLATED GLASS, & CROCKERY WARE, &c.

HALL CLOCK, Japanese CABINET, STAIR OIL CLOTH, &c.
Iron and Brass-mounted BEDSTEAD with Patent Wire MATTRESS, Single WARDROBES with Plate glass doors, BED-ROOM FURNITURE, &c., &c.

A quantity of FLOWERS, PLANTS and FERNS in Pots.
Catalogues will be issued previous to Sale, and the above will be on view on Wednesday next.

TERMS OF SALE.—As customary.
G. R. LAMMERT,
Auctioneer.
Hongkong, 17th July, 1890. [1058]

To be Let.

TO LET.

No. 9, SEYMOUR TERRACE.
No. 4, OLD BAILEY STREET.
OFFICES and CHAMBERS in Connaught House, Queen's Road Central.
No. 7, SEYMOUR TERRACE.
No. 10, SEYMOUR TERRACE.
Apply to
DAVID SASSON, SONS & Co.
Hongkong, 4th July, 1890. [1053]

